



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/592,599	06/12/2000	Dongyan Wang	SAM1.0064	7070

7590 01/30/2004

Kenneth L. Sherman
Sherman & Sherman
Seventeenth Floor
2029 Century Park East
Los Angeles, CA 90067

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, NHON D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2174

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/592,599

Applicant(s)

WANG ET AL.

Examiner

Nhon (Gary) D Nguyen

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to amendment C, filed 11/10/2003.
2. Claims 1-28 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10 and 20 are independent claims.

In the Amendment C, claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-21, and 23-28 are amended. This action is made non-final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-3, 6-12, 15-22, and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. ("Takahashi", US 5,887,193).

As per independent claim 1, Takahashi teaches a method for providing a user interface for controlling devices that are currently connected to a network, the method comprising the steps of:

for at least one of said devices:

Art Unit: 2174

obtaining information from one or more of the devices currently connected to the network, wherein each device includes device information for user interaction with that device (col. 17, line 67 – col. 18, line 4); and

generating a user interface description based at least on the obtained information (col. 17, line 57 – col. 18, line 7), the user interface description including a reference associated with the device information in each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that the reference includes at least one electronic link providing direct access from the user interface description to said information contained in said devices currently connected to the network (col. 18, line 8 – col. 20, line 8).

As per claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, Takahashi teaches the link comprises a pointer from the user interface description to at least the information in a corresponding device (col. 18, line 8 – col. 20, line 8).

As per claim 3, which is dependent on claim 1, Takahashi teaches the steps of generating the user interface description such that the user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device (col. 17, line 57 – col. 18, line 7).

As per claim 6, which is dependent on claim 1, Takahashi teaches the device information in each device includes device identification information for that device (col. 34, lines 62-67).

Art Unit: 2174

As per claim 7, which is dependent on claim 1, Takahashi teaches the device information in each device includes a user control interface description for user interaction with that device (col. 17, line 62 – col. 18, line 7).

As per claim 8, which is dependent on claim 7, Takahashi teaches the steps of generating the user interface description such that each link in the user interface description provides direct access to at least the user control interface description in each corresponding device (col. 18, line 8 – col. 20, line 8).

As per claim 9, which is dependent on claim 7, Takahashi teaches the steps of generating the user interface description such that the user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device, the device data providing an electronic link to the user control interface description in each device, such that when the link is user activated it provides access to control interface description in the corresponding device (col. 17, line 57 – col. 20, line 8).

As per independent claim 10, it is a similar scope to claim 1; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 11, which is dependent on claim 10, it is a similar scope to claim 2; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

Art Unit: 2174

As per claim 12, which is dependent on claim 10, it is a similar scope to claim 3; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 15, which is dependent on claim 10, it is a similar scope to claim 6; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 16, which is dependent on claim 10, it is a similar scope to claim 7; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 17, which is dependent on claim 16, it is a similar scope to claim 8; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 18, which is dependent on claim 16, it is a similar scope to claim 9; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 19, which is dependent on claim 10, Takahashi teaches means for generating at least one user interface by: using each link in a user interface description to access the device information in each corresponding device, and generating the user interface including device data corresponding to each device using the accessed information in each device (col. 17, line 57 – col. 18, line 7 and col. 18, line 8 – col. 20, line 8).

Art Unit: 2174

As per independent claim 20, it is a similar scope to claim 1; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 21, which is dependent on claim 20, it is a similar scope to claim 2; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 22, which is dependent on claim 20, it is a similar scope to claim 3; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 25, which is dependent on claim 20, it is a similar scope to claim 6; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 26, which is dependent on claim 20, it is a similar scope to claim 7; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 27, which is dependent on claim 26, it is a similar scope to claim 8; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 28, which is dependent on claim 26, it is a similar scope to claim 9; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Art Unit: 2174

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Mitani (US #6,466,233).

As per claims 4 and 5, which are both dependent on claim 1, Takahashi does not disclose generating the user interface description further includes the steps of associating a hyper-text link with the device information in each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that each hyper link provides access from the user interface description to the device information in a corresponding device and the information in each device comprises an HTML page for user interaction with and/or control of that device. Mitani discloses hyper-text link HTML pages define sets of user interface functions for multiple devices, connected to a network, that enable user interaction and control of those devices (col. 6, line 4 – col. 7, line 12). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to use the teaching from Mitani of including hyper-text link HTML pages define sets of user interface functions for multiple devices, connected to a network, that enable user interaction and control of those devices in Takahashi's method since hyper-text link HTML pages would allow the devices to be remotely controlled from the Internet via HTTP protocol.

As per claim 13, which is dependent on claim 10, it is a similar scope to claim 4; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

Art Unit: 2174

As per claim 14, which is dependent on claim 10, it is a similar scope to claim 5; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 23, which is dependent on claim 20, it is a similar scope to claim 13; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 24, which is dependent on claim 20, it is a similar scope to claim 14; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Inquiries

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nhon (Gary) D Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-8318. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8 AM to 5:30 PM with every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-746-7239.

Art Unit: 2174

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Nhon (Gary) Nguyen
January 13, 2004

Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100